

BY J. L. PENNINGTON.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The following are the only terms of subscription to THE DAILY PROGRESS:

JOB PRINTING.

There being connected with the Progress establishment a Job Office equal to any in the City of State, we are prepared to execute all orders for BOOK and JOB PRINTING. Orders collected and promptly attended to.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1861, by J. L. Pennington, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States of the Northern District of Georgia.

Congressional.

RICHMOND, Dec. 30.—The Senate passed the bill to put into service those who have furnished substitutes by a vote of 17 to 2. Senators Orr and H. V. Johnson, of Georgia, voted in favor of the bill. A slight verbal amendment was made in the bill but not affecting its provisions as passed by the House; also passed the bill to repeal the law authorizing the destruction of property under military necessity.

The President signed the bill to pay tax on sweet potatoes and to authorize quartermasters to take salted pork instead of bacon for tax in kind on slaughtered hogs. The President sent to the House the correspondence and orders between the Departments and General Johnston and Pemberton. Ordered to be printed.

The House passed a bill to punish any one inciting, aiding and abetting deserters, or purchasing soldiers' arms, equipments or clothing, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars and imprisonment not more than two years; also a bill to grant a copy-right to Gen. Hardee for his Infantry Tactics—years 41, says 17.

Resolutions were adopted instructing the Military Committee to report a bill to repeal exemptions now allowed by law between eighteen and forty-five, except for disability, for State or Confederate officers, ministers of the Gospel, Government employees in ordinance departments, and to regulate details. The Chairman stated that the Committee had already nearly matured a bill of a sweeping character, and would soon report.

Resolutions were adopted instructing the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of providing some relief for some classes of persons who have furnished substitutes if they are required to go into the army.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

RICHMOND, Dec. 30.—The Special Committee of Finance appointed by the House at the commencement of the session have not yet reported. Leave was granted them early after they were appointed to hold their deliberations during the sessions of the House, and they have not been in their seats in the House for many days. They are constantly engaged in the committee room trying to agree upon a plan to remedy our financial embarrassments. It is not known what progress they are making.

THE SIEGE—ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND DAY.

The Christmas of 1863 will long be remembered by those who passed the day in the city of Charleston. For hours before the eastern sky was streaked with the first grey tints of morning, the cold night air was rent by other sounds than the joyous peals from the bells and the exploding crackers of exhilarated boys. At one o'clock, a. m., the enemy opened fire upon the city. Fast and furiously were the shells rained upon the city from five guns—three at Battery Green, one at Cummings' Point, and one at the Mortar Battery. The shell was more severe than upon any former occasion, the enemy generally throwing from three to five shells almost simultaneously. Our batteries promptly and vigorously replied to the fire, but without their usual effect in checking the bombardment, which was steadily maintained by the Yankees during the remainder of the night and all the following morning, until about half-past twelve o'clock. Up to that hour not less than 184 shells had been hurled against the city. There was no more firing until about five o'clock in the afternoon, when one more shell was fired. On Sunday morning about three o'clock, four shells were thrown in quick succession. There had been no further up to a late hour last night.

The damage, we are glad to say, bore no proportion to the severity of the bombardment. Several houses were struck, but in most instances the tremendous missiles buried themselves harmlessly in the earth. There were but two casualties: Mr. Wm. McKnight, aged 83, while sitting by his fireside, had his right leg taken off by a shell, another fragment of which crushed the foot of his sister-in-law, Miss Phineas. Up to last evening both sufferers were doing well.

At Fort Sumter all has been quiet since our last report. An old shell exploded on Christmas day, wounding Privates Theodore Icault and Joseph Lee, of Company K, 1st S. C. A.

Our batteries kept up a steady fire Sunday afternoon on a Yankee working party at the extremity of Cummings' Point. The enemy have closed the embrasure at Gregg, formerly occupied by our 10-inch Columbiad. They have now at Gregg but one gun (a heavy Parrott) bearing upon Fort Sumter, but they have constructed the embrasure of this piece with a view to giving it a wide field of fire. On Saturday evening our lookouts noticed that at the signal of a steam whistle a large Yankee flag was run up at their middle battery. In their first attempt to hoist the "old flag" went up unaided, a mishap which evidently caused much confusion amongst the crowd present.

On Friday morning, about daylight, in the midst of the shelling, our citizens were startled by the report of heavy and rapid artillery firing in the direction of Stono. Many conjectures were made and various rumors circulated. The facts, however, as we have learned them, are as follows: An artillery and infantry force was ordered up Thursday evening to proceed to John's Island for the purpose of reconnoitering the enemy's position at Legareville, and, if possible, to drive away or sink the gunboats generally lying in Stono near that place, and also, if deemed feasible, to capture the garrison and post at Legareville.

Accordingly, every preparation for the expedition having been made, the batteries were got in readiness and everything in position by daylight Friday morning. At the hour fixed, our batteries opened with spirit upon the Yankee gunboat *Marblehead*, lying about three hundred yards from the wharf of the village landing. The Yankee garrison at Legareville was found to be strongly posted on a little island, with a narrow bridge leading to the village. Col. Page, of the Virginia brigade, resolved to make an attack on the enemy's position with the field artillery and the infantry, and awaited the driving away or sinking of the *Marblehead* by our siege guns from the wharf. The gunboat received our fire in silence for about twenty minutes, and then opened with full broadsides. Our batteries continued the engagement about an hour, but failed to drive her away.

The *Palmetto* and a mortar boat, during the action, ran up the Kiawah River, opening a heavy fire on the bank and rear of our lower batteries, and compelled our troops to fall back a short distance. The loss on our side was Private W. H. Antrim, of the Palmetto Guard, killed on the field, and five others severely wounded, two of them mortally, and since dead. The last words of the gallant young Antrim were as

THE DAILY PROGRESS.

VOL. V.

RALEIGH, THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1863.

NO. 43.

AUCTION AND PRIVATE SALES.

NEGRO SALE POSTPONED TO FRIDAY.
THE SEVEN VALUABLE SLAVES ADVERTISED to be sold to-day (Wednesday) will not be sold until Friday, Jan. 1st, when the sale will positively take place. CREECH & LITCHFORD, Auctioneers.

NEGROES FOR SALE.
ON FRIDAY NEXT, COMMENCING AT ELEVEN o'clock, A. M., in front of our store, we will sell to the highest bidder some 10 or 12 likely Negroes—one or two excellent cooks and washerwomen. CREECH & LITCHFORD, Auctioneers.

FOR SALE.
FIFTY HOGSHEADS MANUFACTURING TOBACCO. J. B. LITTLEJOHN, Louisville, N. C.

FOR SALE.
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE BALES Cotton. O. H. FOSTER, Louisville, N. C.

FOR SALE.
A COMPLETE SET OF TINSMITH TOOLS, NO. 1 quality, in good order, and only used about one year. Apply to the PROGRESS OFFICE.

VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND FOR SALE.
A RARE CHANCE FOR REFUGEES TO PURCHASE LAND IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. As I have more land than I necessarily need, I offer for sale one of my plantations in Wake county, eight miles east of Raleigh, lying on Neuse river and Beaver Dam Creek, just above the Millboro Paper Mill, containing about 1250 acres, over one-third of which is open for cultivation. The plantation has on it a good dwelling house, together with all other necessary out-houses. The plantation is in good condition to make the next year's crop, and if desired I will sell everything necessary to make a crop. Confederate money taken, or 6 or 8 per cent. bonds preferred. Possession given immediately.

Any one wishing to purchase, can address me at Raleigh, N. C., or will be shown the farm in my absence by my neighbor, R. G. Dunn. THOS. B. BMDGES.

PHYSICIAN'S NOTICE.
AT A MEETING OF THOSE PHYSICIANS PRACTISING in the city of Raleigh, whose names are subscribed to this publication, held at Dr. Wm. G. Hill's office, on the evening of the 23d instant, it was agreed to and determined upon—

1st. That they would practice in the country after the 1st of January, 1864, and during the unsettled state of the country, for the necessary articles of supply and support for themselves and their families, all of which they have to purchase, upon these terms, viz: at old prices when paid in the products of the country at old prices, otherwise their charges will be in proportion to the prices demanded for these products.

2d. In their town practice they will be governed by these circumstances, viz: when they know that their patients are dependent on a stated and limited income from rural funds of salary or wages, they will charge rates in their charges, otherwise they will charge prices corresponding with the times, unless paid in such articles as are needed by themselves and their families at reduced prices, when their charges will be relatively lessened. Justice and an honest sense of duty to themselves and their families, which they cannot disregard, impel them to this step, while, on the other hand, equal justice and a proper sense of duty to the public demand that they should make known their purposes and determination.

FABUS B. H. WOOD, WM. G. HILL, CHAS. E. JOHNSON, W. H. MCKEE.

THE BINGHAM SCHOOL.
OAKS, ORANGE COUNTY, N. C.
ROOM FOR SEVERAL GOOD BOYS.

TUITION FOR TWENTY WEEKS FROM JANUARY 14th.
Board for twenty weeks from Jan. 14th to March 14th, \$500. Address: W. J. BINGHAM & SONS, Oaks, Orange, N. C.

CHANGE OF PRICE AND ADDRESS.
THE PRICE OF THE PRESENTS OF WHICH THE Southern Home-Pills are made has become more than doubled in three months. I am compelled to advance my prices a little, and have therefore changed my charges. Hereafter I will sell the Pills, until further notice, at \$2 a box, \$20 a dozen, and \$150 a gross. My address is Goldsboro, N. C., where all letters will hereafter be directed to. GEORGE W. DEEMS.

FOR HIRE.
THREE NO. 1 TOBACCO HANDS, AND A FIRST class dining-room Servant. Apply immediately. Dec 30-31. F. F. FERGUSON.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS.
ALL CLAIMS, ACCOUNTS, &c., DUE THE LATE C. T. FIDELL have been placed in my hands by the executor for collection. All persons indebted to the said deceased are requested to make prompt payment. I may be usually seen at P. F. FERGUSON'S Drug Store, between the hours of 11 and 1. J. J. LANSDELL.

NOTICE.
HEREAFTER THE DEPOSITARY AT RALEIGH will pay the interest on Registered Bonds or Stock, heretofore paid by the Depository at Wilmington, but the Depository at Wilmington, N. C., will continue to pay Coupons as well as the Depository at Raleigh. Dec 28-1w. Acting Register, Richmond, Va.

NOTICE.
ON THE 14TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1864, AT THE Smithfield Hotel, in Smithfield, I will expose to public sale all the FURNITURE belonging to said house, consisting of Beds and Bedsteads and Furniture, Tables, Washstands, Bowls and Pitchers, Chairs, Adirondacs, and many other things too tedious to mention. Cash will be received for all if preferred, or on terms to be named. Dec 24-14w. Y. N. THORNTON.

NOTICE.
I WILL, ON MONDAY THE 4TH OF JANUARY next, rent my plantation, hire my negroes and sell some portable property, Corn, Fodder, one young male and other articles not necessary to mention. Terms made known on day of sale. ISAAC W. STALLINGS.

NOTICE.
ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH I SHALL send a Special Agent to the Army of Northern Virginia. All packages, &c., sent to me at this place will be promptly forwarded. EDWARD WARREN, Surgeon General, N. C.

Bank of Washington.
AT GREENSBORO, N. C., Dec 18, 1863.
DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT. OF THE Capital Stock of this Bank has been declared, payable to Stockholders (in current funds) on and after Friday, January 1, 1864. M. STEVENSON, Cashier.

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.
RALEIGH, N. C., May 8, 1863.
LEAD WANTED.—I WISH TO PURCHASE LEAD for this Department. Persons having large or small quantities of lead please apply at once. We give 1 pound of POWDER for 10 pounds of LEAD. THOS. HOGG, Capt. U. S. in charge of Ordnance.

FOUND.
ON MARKET SQUARE, YESTERDAY, A SMALL Pocket Book, containing a small sum of money. The owner will have the same by application at this office, describing the same and paying for this advertisement. Dec 28-1w.

REWARDS.

\$100 REWARD.
RANAWAY FROM STATESVILLE, N. C., ON Monday, Dec. 7, a slave man. Said man is of medium height, muddy yellow color, black hair, straight, but a little inclined to curl, had on when he left Statesville a blue cap, very much worn, dark frock coat, black pants. Said negro left Statesville in company with the 56th N. C. Regiment, and is now probably with them, passing himself off as a free man. He can read and write and is known by the name of HENRY WHITE. May have a forgery of the above record with him, and will be paid for the apprehension of said negro and confinement in any jail that Wm. P. Moore, of Charlotte, or myself can get him. Said Regiment is now in Randolph Co. JAMES F. LONG, Statesville, N. C.

\$500 REWARD.
I WILL GIVE FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD for the apprehension and confinement in any jail within the State, of WILLIAM F. FENNER, notorious horse rogue. Said Fenner deserted from Company E, 35th N. C. Regiment, about thirty years old, about five feet eight or nine inches high, light hair, fair complexion, skin of the face approaching redness, blue eyes, with sharp, keen look, nose somewhat roman, sulky outer look, slow to speak, but when he does speak he speaks short. On some occasions he has passed himself by the name of Johnston. I have reason to believe the said Fenner stole from me a pair of high top boots, (this month,) my fine bay MARE, saddle and bridle. The mare was two years old last Spring, sixteen or seventeen hands high, red bay with black mane and tail, several skinned marks in her forehead; the saddle was of Spanish form, with loose hog skin seat, wool pad on the tree; the bridle was of the same material as the saddle. 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DAILY PROGRESS.

RALEIGH, N. C.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1863.

OUR ONLY TERMS.

The following are our only terms of subscription for the Progress:

DAILY PROGRESS:
Six months.....\$10 00
Three months.....6 00
Two months.....4 00
One month.....2 00

The paper will be stopped in all cases when the time paid for expires, and those who do not wish to be without the paper must look to this and renew in time.

Agents and new dealers will be furnished at \$8 per hundred copies.

We publish nothing but a Daily Edition and enter none but daily subscribers on our mail books.
Advertisements will be inserted for \$2 a square (eight lines solid matter or less) for the first, and \$1.50 for every additional insertion.

Business Notice.

The expenses attending the publication of the Progress are enormous and have to be paid promptly, and we must do a cash business or none at all. We must demand cash from all our subscribers, and we must demand cash from all our subscribers, and we must demand cash from all our subscribers.

A Menstruous Proposition.

The beauties of secession but dimly seen at first are becoming more and more vivid as the revolution advances, and from present indications it will not be long before he who runs may read. The communication of officers of the army of Tennessee, read in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, shows that there is an alarming state of demoralization and disaffection in that quarter. They want all men from 18 to 50 put in the service immediately, and those from 15 to 18 and 50 to 60 held at the discretion of the President and to be put in when their services are needed, and to place all able-bodied negroes in the service as cooks, laborers, &c. Each officer in the army of Tennessee we suppose wants at least two servants. And while they ask that Congress shall put all the trouble of the country, white and black, in the army, they demand an increase of rations. They have never even thought of the fact that if they take all the laborers from the farms, their rations must cease entirely. Strange forgetfulness.

The idea of putting all the boys, old men and able-bodied negroes in the service! Who will feed that army? How long can it be kept together? How long will the Confederacy last after the inauguration of such a policy? What kind of successes can we expect of armies who require negroes to do their cooking and erect their breast-works and fortifications? The enemy take a place and make it impregnable in a week, while we press all the negroes to labor and after months of toil to prepare for defence, find we can stand but a few hours. If we want independence soldiers and people must learn to work and labor and not depend on negroes.

But why this wholesale call for men? We must have four or five hundred thousand men on our muster rolls. Where are they? If the authorities cannot control, discipline and render efficient those we now have on the pay rolls, why call for more? Send to the field the men who are in the pay of the Government and we shall have near or quite four hundred thousand men; enough for four monster armies of one hundred thousand men each, and a sufficient force left at home to feed and clothe them; and with these we can defend our soil and continue the war for an indefinite length of time. Our armies are strong, or would be, but for the weakness and imbecility of those who govern the civil affairs of the Confederacy. We want system, order and moral honesty in men in office, and discipline and efficiency in the army. We have as many men in the pay of the Government as can be supported, and if they are not in the field it is the fault of those who administer the affairs of the Government and not the much abused people at home.

Let Congress send to the field the men who belong there under existing laws, and then do all they can to foster agricultural and other industrial pursuits at home. We must be strong at home as well as in the field, and the soldiers and their families must be fed and clothed as well as fight.

If there is to be a Dictator, Mr. Foote wants Gen. Lee. We have as much confidence in and respect for Gen. Lee as any man living, but we tell Mr. Foote that the people of North Carolina, who set out to fight for freedom and liberty, will not submit to a Dictator in the person of any living man, while the power is left to resist. Protect the citizen in his rights of person and property, and we will fight on and conquer a peace from our unfeeling foe, but if we are to have a Dictator and a Military Despotism, North Carolina will fall back upon her own sovereignty. We beg our Representatives in Congress to stand up for the right and let the sentiments of their constituents be known. After having sent over a hundred thousand men to the field we are not willing that the few who remain should be made the subjects of a grinding despotism for the glorification of the fanatics in Congress or the distinguished general officers of the army of Tennessee.

The Principals of Substitutes Conscripted.

As will be seen by reference to our telegraph column, the Senate yesterday passed by a vote of 17 to 2, the bill from the House putting in the service all persons who have furnished substitutes. We suppose the enrollment will commence at an early day.

We have expressed our own views freely on this bill and have no cause to change them. We fear it will not make our armies any stronger, while it will greatly diminish our productions. We have no room for further comments.

Judge Guld, our Commissioner of Exchange, having refused to hold any correspondence with Butler on account of his being outlawed by proclamation of President Davis, the exchange of prisoners will stop until the Yankees make another appointment. The entire blame is this whole matter rests with the enemy, and we hope the Federal Congress, now in session, will compel the Yankee authorities to observe the cartel and renew the exchange, so that our brave soldiers confined in Northern prisons may be speedily released.

Distilling the Tithes.

While many of our people are without bread we learn that an order has been issued from Richmond to distill 30,000 bushels of the tithes grain in North Carolina into whisky. The best white wheat for the officers' families and the best whisky for the officers, we suppose, is to be the rule. If spirits be needed for the hospitals and for medicinal or other government purposes, let it be made in Florida or Southern Georgia, where there is an abundance of corn—not here where starvation stares us in the face.

Our information comes from a high source, and we are glad to know that Gov. Vance, ever ready to protect and defend the rights of the people of the State, means to protest against this outrageous proceeding. We may be able to live without whisky or alcohol, but we cannot live without bread, and if the present Congress really desires the independence of the Confederacy it cannot do a better thing than repeal the odious tithes law. Such a law was never necessary to induce the people to divide their last morsel with the army.

While many of our noble soldiers are barefooted, we see it stated that 7,000 lbs. of government leather was destroyed by Averill at Salem. What was this leather doing there?

The home guard sent out to scout, blockade the road and give notice of the approach of Averill's marauders on Salem, were not heard of until after the raiders had left.

Yankee Villainy.

The people of Eastern North Carolina are getting that "taste of Butler's rule" which the Richmond Enquirer was so anxious for them to have. They have recently hung one of our soldiers near Elizabeth City under the plea that he was a guerrilla, and have taken two ladies to Norfolk where they are held as hostages for a negro soldier captured by the Confederates. This was all done by order of one Brig. Gen. Wild, a subordinate of Butler's, who has recently been to Elizabeth City.

A card with the following inscription was found on the Confederate soldier hung by this brute:

"THIS GUERRILLA"

HANGED

BY ORDER OF BRIG. GEN. WILD.

DAN'L BRIGHT, OF PASQUOTANK COUNTY.

He was a Confederate soldier, and not a guerrilla, and of course was murdered.

We are indebted to Gov. Vance for the following letters from Wild to Capt. Elliott and Sanderlin, which show the brutal character of the wretch who penned them. Even if they had the right to use negroes as soldiers, which we deny, who ever heard of ladies being held as hostages for soldiers captured by an enemy?

COPY.

NORTHWEST LANDING, VA.,

Tuesday, Dec. 22d, 1863.

To Willis Sanderlin, Captain of Guerrillas:

Sir: I hold Maj. Gregory as a hostage for the colored soldier captured near Shiloh. I shall treat him exactly as you people treat that soldier. If they hang him, I shall hang Maj. Gregory. And you know by this time that I keep my word.

Let the soldier be sent to Deep Creek Village, at the end of Dismal Swamp Canal, and Maj. Gregory shall be at once restored.

(Signed) EDWARD A. WILD,

Brig. Gen. Vols.

Maj. Gregory is an old man not in service.

COPY.

ELIZABETH CITY,

December 17th, 1863.

To John T. Elliott, Captain of Guerrillas:

Sir: I still hold in custody Mrs. Menden and Mrs. Weeks as hostages for the colored soldier taken by you. As he is treated, so shall they be, even to hanging. By this time you know that I am in earnest. Guerrillas are to be treated as pirates. You will never have rest until you renounce your present course or join the regular Confederate army.

(Signed) EDWARD A. WILD,

Brig. Gen. Vols.

Any day that you will send your colored prisoner to Deep Creek Village, at the terminus of Dismal Swamp Canal, you will find these women returned there the next day. This on the faith of one who keeps his word.

(Signed) EDWARD A. WILD,

Brig. Gen. Vols.

These ladies were kept in handcuffs until taken to Norfolk, where they are kept in jail.

They were guarded by negroes, who escorted them even to discharge the calls of nature.

These outrages it seems were committed while a force under Wild was making a raid through several of our Eastern counties, in which they stole a large number of negroes and other property. We find a letter in the Examiner written by a person who left Norfolk since the expedition returned to that place. This correspondent writes from Ivor, Southampton county, Va., on the 23d inst. We copy from his letter:

On Sunday, the 15th ultimo, the people of Princess Anne were thrown into some excitement by the arrival of a company of Yankee cavalry at the court house. They came out to secure the real and personal property tax-books in the clerk's office, and on their being delivered to them by the clerk of the county they returned to Norfolk. On the following Tuesday the same party returned, and took away all the records from the office and carried them to Norfolk. With this second robbery it was hoped they would be content, but in this the people were sadly mistaken.

On the following day (17th) the Yankees and negroes came out in force, a negro regiment, on foot, and a large company of Yankee cavalry in company. They scoured the entire county, taking away all the negroes, with here and there an exception. The able-bodied men were intended for the army. They searched every house, and if anything in the shape of ammunition or fire-arms was found, the proprietor was forthwith arrested. In the course of their march through the county, some five or six members of Stuart's cavalry were surrounded and captured—they had been sent home to procure horses. Among others, Major E. Burroughs was betrayed by one of his negroes and captured. He was marched away with the rest through the county, and upon reaching Norfolk, I learn he was placed in irons and not allowed to see any one. The negroes were most insolent towards their late owners, and in many cases were restrained only by the influence of the Yankee officers. They took whatever they wanted in the way of provisions, in many cases entirely stripping the citizens of all they had to eat. In three or four days the work of plundering and thieving was well nigh accomplished, and they returned to Norfolk, carrying off a hundred and twenty cart-loads of negroes, with a large number of kind. The negroes of

Norfolk seemed jubilant on their arrival, and it is said, fired a salute in honour of Major Burroughs' capture. The whole lot of cart-loads were turned out in one pile, and a terrible squabble soon arose among the various claimants of the stolen articles—furniture, clothing, &c. It is estimated that about five or six hundred negroes and some three hundred horses were carried off by this and other raiding parties—the owners of the negroes in many cases professing to send them to Norfolk in order to save their horses and carts from being impressed. The ostacles of Norfolk, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans were visited in the same way, and when the writer passed near Elizabeth City, North Carolina, the motley horde were making their headquarters at that town, and scouring the entire country round. In Pasquotank they were fired upon by some guerrillas; one negro and one horse were killed and a negro captured. The Yankees and negroes retaliated for this by burning down the houses of Lieutenant Menden and Mr. White, who was a commissary, and carrying away the wife of Lieutenant Menden to Elizabeth City, where she is now held as a hostage for the negro prisoner. Mrs. White has succeeded in getting to our lines, and it is hoped she will receive that kind consideration her unfortunate situation demands from our citizens.

In the discussion of the House substitute bill in the Senate, on Wednesday, Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, made a speech against its passage and offered a substitute. Other amendments were offered and the discussion continued, but no final action was taken and the subject came up again, probably, on yesterday. Mr. Orr took decided grounds against the propositions of Senator Brown, and said that if his views were carried out great demoralization and confusion must result therefrom, and that a law to put in the principals of substitutes could not be enforced.

Some of the Senators argued that the bill of the Military Committee, which conscripted all white male citizens between 16 and 60 would, if passed, cover the whole ground; others insisted on the immediate passage of the bill as it came from the House, for the reason that thousands of men who had, put in substitutes were running away and going to the enemy.

In answer to a suggestion that the law authorizing substitutes was abolished, Senator Brown, the spokesman of the President and the advocate of a Military Despotism, said:

"Yes, the door had been shut after the horse was gone. This law should not be allowed to drop through from respect of mere technicalities, such as decisions of State courts. It was agreed upon all sides, with rare exceptions, that legislation on this subject should be retraced. The legislation of the House on this subject met his views, but if it did not he would agree with it. If we could not get what we wanted we should agree with the House in what they wanted. Their opinions were as much entitled to respect as ours. The bill strikes at the root of the evil. The Senate should pass it promptly, and if there was danger of the law not being executed there was remedy, and let the Senate say it. Suspend the habeas corpus. The country should not be lost because of the opinion of every petty judge, authorized to issue a habeas corpus, giving different decisions in Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. To get uniformity, Congress should pass a law declaring this law to be for the regulation and discipline of the army, and by that means, as to this measure, suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Congress, there was no doubt, could suspend the habeas corpus as to particular measures, having authority to pass it generally. It would be bad to have it said, after we were in our graves, that our liberty had been lost whilst we were struggling over petty constitutional questions."

That's it. Suspend the habeas corpus, declare this a war measure, make Jefferson Davis military dictator, deprive every man of his liberty of person and right of property, and then tell him he is fighting for freedom!

From Lee's Army.

CAMP "FREEZE OUT," 32D N. C. T.,

December 26th, 1863.

MR. PROGRESS:—"All quiet in front" is the only news we have received from this army since Meade made his "strategic retrograde" beyond the Rapidan, and I am very confident that nothing falls with more harmony upon the ears of this army—that nothing is received with more entire satisfaction, for the country generally is in the greatest state of anxiety and mourning whenever the intelligence is announced that "they are fighting on the Rapidan." I dread for the day to come when we have to meet the foe in deadly conflict. I dread only as I think every rational man should, not on account of its results as regards victory, but the sad and immense slaughter of the flower of our land. "No news from the front" is the best news we got.

Christmas gift, Mr. Editor, and ditto to your numerous readers. Christmas is here to-day, I am told, but can scarcely believe it, for among the many "egg-nog" lovers and makers now in camp I have not seen a single sign of any. Some of the boys spoke of hanging up their socks but knew that they would be pressed before day and concluded to keep them on, for they are sometimes pressed off their feet while asleep. It is by far the dullest Christmas I have ever seen. "Here's hoping that these few lines may find everybody enjoying Christmas more than I." This is the third Christmas I have spent in this miserable war. "When this cruel war is over"—that is one of the largest "whens" I meet up with. There is but one consolation that I have in these dull times. Next year is leap-year and I am sure that the ladies, in their various wanderings, will not forget and overlook such a looking gent as I am, me, myself—hem! Ladies, if you let this year pass unimproved your doom is sealed. Make an early start and work assiduously, for, if this war lasts another year, husbands will be husbands. Now let me implore you by every emotion of patriotism, to work. "Now is the only and accepted." "Come and take me now," here I am in market. I shall look for a speedy address.

This brigade (Daniel's) is camped near Morlon's Ford and on picket, it being the one from the division on the line, the remainder having moved back about four miles for convenience to wood and transportation. We have quite comfortable quarters—log huts reminding me of the wig-wams of Esquimaux Indians. Some almost under the ground, others made of substantial logs, covered with dirt, while others are built in a tall and elaborate style, all commingling and conjuring to render camp ridiculously sublime to a mere spectator. It is very cold here and I would say to any one who has more socks (very large) than they need, we will take them along and be thankful for small favors. The weather has been very favorable thus far, but I fear that it is only a prelude to what we will get about February and March. Orders came in camp last night to be ready to move at daylight. Madam rumor said that a Yankee corps was advancing, and accordingly, we packed up and at daylight we were in marching trim, but the report seemed to be a ruse, so we quietly piled back into our holes.

People at home have various rumors in regard to rations, which give them great uneasiness. As regards that I can say it is false. I am entitled to only a private ration and I get a plenty. There are some who complain because Uncle Jeff. don't give them pound-cake. You know that the "pound-cake"

long since. Some are prone to find fault. The true, at times, as marches, our haversacks are light, but as a general thing they are beautifully supplied.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL TAXATION.

Suppose that the Constitution of the Confederate States, when it came out of the hands of our delegates at Montgomery, had contained the following clause—"Slaves may be taxed as property for revenue, to any extent a majority of Congress may deem expedient"—was there a single State represented in the Convention which would have adopted the Constitution? Was there a single man sent from South Carolina to that Convention who would have voted for it? If he had done so, would he have dared to propose its ratification to the Convention of South Carolina? Would not the feeling in this State have been universal that we were betrayed? South Carolina, in her Address to the Southern States, invited them to meet her in Convention, to establish "a slaveholding Confederacy." That she could not and did not obtain. Her delegates doubtless insisted, as our ancestors had done at Philadelphia, when the Constitution of the United States was under consideration, that her slaves were a part of her population, for which she had a right to representation, and which should be taxed by the Confederate Congress by a capitation or poll tax, only as all other persons should be taxed. Why this principle was not engrafted into the Confederate States Constitution is unknown, because it pleased a majority of that body to cast the veil of secrecy over their proceedings and debates— which never can now legitimately be removed, excepting by the States in their sovereign capacity in Convention. With such a barrier to publicity, its proceedings may be considered as veiled forever. But it may fairly be inferred that this principle would have been adopted and the institution of slavery have been left exclusively under the control of each State, had it not been for the policy of reconstructing the Union with the United States. It was this policy which induced the adoption of the compromise contained in the Constitution of the United States, that "representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons three-fifths of all slaves." It was supposed that the non-slaveholding States of the United States would object to a full representation for slaves, but that they would not object to join our Confederacy with such a representation of them, and such a liability to a corresponding taxation as they were used to under the Constitution of the United States. In the adoption of this compromise into the Confederate States Constitution, the delegates in the Montgomery Convention might most reasonably have supposed that it would be respected and observed, for, with all the faithfulness of our former Yankee associates under the Constitution of the United States, they had never attempted to violate it. It could not have entered into their imaginations, that before the Confederate States Constitution was three years old, the President of the Confederate States would recommend—and a majority of the popular branch of Congress would approve the recommendation—that this compromise should be overthrown, and that Congress should usurp the power of taxing slaves as property without regard to the limitations it imposes, and thus convert this policy of reconstruction into a power of emancipation. It is vain to say that such a power, once usurped by Congress, it will never hereafter be exercised. Even as a source of revenue, it would be replete with danger and injustice. Here, in South Carolina, we know that the tax on slaves constitutes the chief source of revenue to the State. But with Kentucky, and Missouri, and Tennessee, and Maryland, and with a large portion of Virginia and North Carolina, it might be supposed that slaves constitute the most legitimate source of revenue, because it may be inferred that they belong to the rich. And when these States shall be drained of their slaves, for the more profitable cultivation of the cotton lands of the South—the African slave trade, being prohibited by the Constitution—and the non-slaveholding States of the Northwest shall be admitted into the Confederacy—what can prevent the power of taxing slaves for revenue, being converted into the power to emancipate them, by such excessive taxation as to render them unprofitable? We gave to the Northern States, by the Constitution of the United States, the power to lay taxes on imports for revenue. Was it not converted into a power to lay taxes against revenue to foster their manufactures by prohibitions? And was it not declared, as a part of the policy of prohibition, that slave labor should be made valueless, and thus lead to emancipation? But what would have become of the institution of slavery if the Congress of the United States had dared to usurp (and the Southern States had submitted to the usurpation) the power of directly taxing slaves as property for revenue? Long since the emancipation of our slaves would have taken place, and the Confederate States would have been what our late associates of the United States are now striving to make it—a howling wilderness. And shall we allow our representatives in Congress to usurp such a power, by which the Constitution of the Confederate States is overthrown in the two most vital particulars—taxation and slavery—and over both, a majority in Congress be made omnipotent? It was to prevent this that the Confederate States seceded from the United States. Years of desperate struggle taught us that to prevent being unjustly taxed, in any Confederacy we may form, the power of taxation must be limited in the Constitution. Bitter experience, culminating, after the fiercest agitation, in the election of an Abolitionist to the Presidency of the United States, satisfied us that the institution of slavery could only be safe under the exclusive control of the sovereign States in which it existed. We declared our separation and independence of the Northern States, because they treacherously attempted to pervert the Constitution we made with them, to wrest from us our exclusive domination over these interests. Not only liberty, but existence, demanded our separation from them. And now it is proposed that a subversive Congress shall throw political liberty—slavery—and the Constitution itself, at the feet of the President!

"Can such things be, And overcome us like a summer cloud, Without our special wonder?"

READING FOR CONGRESS.

From the Chattanooga Rebel.

Thraction of Congress on the subject of the increase of the army has been prompt, and the danger now appears to be that they will run from one extreme to the other. There appears to be too much disposition to do things in Congress with a rush, and too little reflection in regard to the effect of measures proposed. The measures now under consideration contemplate the conscription of all men in the Confederacy, capable, or supposed to be capable, of bearing arms, and where men are needed by the necessities of the country, or the wants of society, details are to be made from those who are in the army. We must confess that we cannot see the necessity or the utility of this measure. Its effect will certainly be to put the whole nation under military rule, and subject every man in it to the will, and perhaps the tyranny, of the military authorities who will then have it in their power to exercise the most monstrous favoritism, or the grossest injustice. We regard the proposition as a dangerous stride towards despotism, which has not even the excuse of necessity to justify it. It is more proper, a good deal more safe, and infinitely more just, that Congress should designate who are necessary, as exceptions for the well-being of the Government, and the necessities of society, than to leave it to the favoritism and partiality of the military authorities.

ty. If it is necessary and proper to exempt certain classes, it is very easy for the act of Congress to exempt who shall be exempt.

Any other system would demoralize the country, and make every man entitled to exemption, except the country in their positions as exempt, whose whole company, and, perhaps a regiment, would scorn the humiliation of approaching military authority with hat in hand, to ask for an exemption, which, if made, would be of more value to Government and the army than to the individual. Such men would take their places in the army without hesitation, rather than subject themselves to the rebuffs and insolence of gold face officials, and Government would thus lose hundreds and thousands of men who could not be replaced. A monstrous corrupting system of favoritism would grow out of it, which would be productive of great dissatisfaction and result in a very unhealthy and dangerous condition of affairs both to the army and the people. Congress should weigh well the consequences of adopting a suggestion so fraught with evil and so far from good.

From the Lynchburg Virginian.

The proposition of Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, to ret- to the Cabinet out of office when it has lost the confidence of the country, is not entirely new. The same policy, or something equivalent to it, was advocated when the Constitution of the United States was being framed.

George Mason, the immortal author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, moved, in the Convention, that the Committee of States be instructed to prepare a clause or clauses for establishing an executive council, or Council of State for the President of the United States, to consist of six members, two of which from the Eastern, two from the Middle, and two from the Southern States, with a rotation of office similar to those of the Senate; such council to be appointed by the Legislature or the Senate. This, as will appear, would have given the Senate control of the appointments to the executive departments in the manner indicated by Mr. Johnson's resolution. Mr. Franklin, a man reputed for wisdom in his day, seconded the motion, remarking, "we seem too much to fear cabal in appointments by a number, and to have too much confidence in those of single persons. Experience showed that caprice, the intrigues of favorites and mistresses, were, nevertheless, the means most prevalent in monarchies. He thought a council would not only check a bad president, but a relief to a good one." This was what two of the greatest men in the Convention thought on this subject.

Previously, a committee had reported a resolution in favour of making the heads of departments, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the United States, a privy council, "whose duty it shall be to advise him (the President) in matters respecting the execution of his office." The Committee of States rejected this proposition, reporting in lieu of it a clause subsequently incorporated into the Constitution, to the effect that the President "may request the opinion, in writing, of the principal officers in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices."

In response to this report of the Committee of States, George Mason declared that "in rejecting council to the President, we were about to try an experiment on which the most despotic government has never ventured. The Grand Seigneur himself had never ventured. This resolution was rejected; consolidation and the one-man power were in the ascendant, as George Mason refused to sign the Constitution or recommend it to Virginia for adoption."

We learn that a squad of about twenty dealers were recently brought down from Gaston county and that only four remain in that county. A large number have been gathered up in this State during the last few months, and we hope those who remain will soon be returned to duty. Nothing justifies desertion and had the Confederate authorities, the officers in the army and the people at home done their duty they should have had much less of it.

FROM BELOW.—After diligent enquiry from persons who came up yesterday we could hear no confirmation of the reported advance on Kinross, and have no idea that there was any truth in the rumour of the day previous. It is believed, however, that Butler is being reinforced and that a demonstration may be looked for at an early day.

LEAVING THE COUNTRY.—The proposed measures of Congress and the expected passage of the bill put in the principals of substitute has caused a stir at Richmond and many of the patriots are resigning away. The Dispatch of Tuesday says:

Armed bands of speculators and extortioners, being from the acts of Congress, are said to be making their way to the Yankee lines in every direction. Some of these parties are sufficiently strong to even come an ordinary picket force, and have declared their intention of seizing the pickets, when necessary and taking them to the Federals. Our commanders on the outposts should be ready for these desperadoes and in every instance make examples of them that will deter other knaves from attempting to desert the country which they have aided to impoverish.

We are indebted to John Sorrell, Esq., of this county, for a present of some of the finest wheat largest Turnips we have seen this season.

Ben. Wood, M. C., from New York city, says he will vote no more men or money to carry on the war Bully for you, Ben!

We are authorized and requested to announce WILEY SAULS as a candidate for Constable of District No. 2, at the ensuing municipal election on the 3d Monday of January. Dec 31st.

Mr. Editor.—Permit us to suggest to the voters of the Western Ward, the name of ALEX. CREECH, Esq., for a seat in the next Board of Commissioners for that city. He will be supported by MANY VOTERS. Dec 23rd

Mr. Editor.—Have the kindness to inform your numerous readers in the Western Ward that the indefatigable Col. W. H. H. TUCKER will be voted for by MANY CITIZENS. Dec 28th

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

LAND FOR RENT.
ANY PERSON WISHING TO RENT A GOOD FARM of 1 acres, with a good Dwelling House and all necessary out-houses, about 5 miles from Raleigh, at the Averasboro road, will address W. PARKER, Raleigh, N. C. Dec 31st

NOTICE—CONFEDERATE MONEY
I HAVE FOR SALE ONE HUNDRED HOGSHEADS of Tobacco also, six barrels of Nash Brand, &c. &c. to the subscriber, five miles north of Leidsville, Franklin county. PETER S. FOSTER. Dec 31st

THE MAGISTRATES
OF WAKE COUNTY ARE REQUESTED TO MEET at the Court House on Monday next, the 4th inst. of January, at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a new Justice of the Peace. THO. G. WHITAKER, Chairman. Dec 31st